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quantitative observation and exposition of social aggregates, elevates this branch of knowledge into the dignity of a science. At the same time we are led to understand why this independent science of statistics, in its narrower meaning, has not a monopoly of statistical method—a method which scholars know is applicable to the natural as well as to the social sciences.

Professor Mayo-Smith, in a paper on statistics and sociology read before the American Economic Association, very clearly developed the conception of statistics as an exact social science. The definition, much of whose utility hinges upon the word “exact,” coming almost simultaneously, yet independently, from two authoritative sources, ought to have great weight and cannot but contribute towards clearer views.

Dr. von Mayr has written an excellent book. He has given in reasonable compass and readable form the salient elements of statistical history, theory, and technique, and the pertinent facts of administrative organization. His copious bibliographical citations at the conclusion of each paragraph are an especially valuable feature.

Where the reviewer's views are in practical accord with the author's, it is superfluous to do more than to mention leading characteristics and to commend closer acquaintance. In the present instance we add the confession that the second volume is awaited with impatient interest.

E. R. L. GOULD.

A Handy Book of the Labour Laws. By GEORGE HOWELL.
London: Macmillan & Co., 1895. 8vo. pp. xii + 338.

Two editions of this compilation were published in 1876 and almost immediately exhausted. Increasing demand for the book, together with the many changes in the labor legislation of England and in the position of trades-unions, have at last called from the editor a third edition. Its aim is to bring within the reach of the English laborer a definite knowledge of his rights and duties under different acts of Parliament. The collection professes to include all the important labor legislation of the last twenty-five years. Under some of the acts the laborer may appear in his own behalf, and copies of such legal forms as are not filled out by court officers are therefore reprinted.

The most important portions of the book to the laborers are probably the introductions, in which the editor sets forth the purpose and

purport of the several acts. These are couched in more simple language than can be used in the acts themselves and occasionally contain words of advice upon various subjects. In one place the importance of strict observance of contracts and the general attitude of the courts on such matters are set forth; in another appear some sensible remarks upon the relative advantages of suits and compromises under the Employer's Liability Act. In the introductions to this act, and to those relating to payment of wages, and to arbitration and conciliation, short historical accounts are given of the successive steps in the legislation by which the present acts have finally been arrived at. The exposition of the Trades-Union Acts of 1871 and 1876 is especially full. Wherever necessary cases are briefly cited in illustration of the principles under discussion. The last two chapters contain a summary of the provisions of the County Court's Act and of the law of new trials and appeals which bear directly upon cases arising under the labor laws. A full marginal analysis accompanies the introductions and texts of the laws throughout. The compilation should prove very useful to those for whom it is made. H. W. STUART.

A History of Slavery and Serfdom. By JOHN KELLS INGRAM.
London: Adam and Charles Black, 1895; New York: Macmillan & Co. 12mo. pp. xiv+285.

THIS volume contains in a revised and expanded form the substance of the author's article "Slavery" in the ninth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. The writer makes only a modest claim to erudition, giving a full bibliography of works upon which he has relied, and acknowledging his special indebtedness to Wallon's *L'Esclavage dans l'Antiquité* and to Sugenheim's *Geschichte der Aufhebung der Leibeigenschaft*. "Writing," he says, "not for scholars but for the mass of thoughtful and cultivated men and women, I have aimed at presenting such broad views and general ideas in relation to the history of slavery as ought to form a part of the mental furniture of all educated persons." Dr. Ingram is perhaps somewhat too modest in his description of his work. Making allowance for his obligations to others in many aspects of the subject, it may yet be said that he has in the present monograph given the English reader an account of slavery which, while dealing largely in "broad views," is not wanting in careful detail, and which will be of service to the scholar as well as to the general reader.